My Brothers:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment and look forward to an enjoyable and successful year. Since The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Florida initiated the Florida Masonic Child ID Program in 1997, each year, you have reinforced our goal of providing parents/caregivers with state of the art Child ID and child safety information. Without your help it would not have been possible to provide hundreds of thousands of FREE child identification kits to so many families.

One and all know and understand the importance of safeguarding our youth. A Child ID kit provides a parent/caregiver the capability to equip law enforcement with vital information to assist their efforts when searching for a missing person. It contains up-to-date quality photos, medical information, physical characteristics, and contact information. The digital fingerprints can be used to help locate a missing person in a variety of ways including licensing, registrations, certifications, employment, and law enforcement.

A Child ID event is one of the most important and useful public relations activities available to the Fraternity. Events educate the public about the Fraternity’s commitment to charity. They display community involvement and assist in the membership process. At a Child ID event professionals, young adults, and their families witness Masonry and can learn about the Fraternity through a learned Brother who can talk comfortably with others.

A few years ago, the Florida Masonic Child ID program Facebook page “Florida Masonic Child ID Program,” and website http://flmasonicchildid.org/ were created and implemented to assist the various Districts to discuss ideas and ask for help. But above all, these sites have proven to expand the program by increased exposure with the public and organizations that are committed to child safety. Participation from the Zone Chairmen and District Committeemen is required for these sites to continue to be successful.

The 2018 goals for the Florida Masonic Child ID Program are:
1. 100% District Participation
2. A standardization of the program
3. An affordability for every Lodge/District
4. Provide a superior product

For our program to continue its success, we need to continue our fundraising as it is important to the growth and quality of the program. The logo pins, ties, and scarves have been a tremendous source of funds and we will continue to promote them. Over the last few years, Committeemen were successful in identifying suppliers of quality refurbished equipment that can be of great assistance to a Lodge or District starting a Child ID Program. Any and all fundraising ideas are welcomed and encouraged.

Without our Brothers, their families, and friends who donate their time and resources, the Florida Masonic Child ID Program would not be the success it is today. Every Lodge should get involved by promoting upcoming events in their Trestleboards by having the Child ID Program at their Lodge events or volunteering for an event. Lodges and Districts support each other and welcome assisting with new Child ID Programs.

I want to thank M:. W:. John E. Karroum for the opportunity to serve him and our Fraternity as the 2018 State Chairman. I thank the Zone Chairmen, District Committeemen, and volunteers for their support and dedication.

Sincerely and fraternally,

R:. W:. Dudley S. Minton
State Chairman, Child ID Committee

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